

Fort Lauderdale

December 2003/
January 2004

A
community
newsletter
published
by the
City
of
Fort
Lauderdale



**Holiday
Happenings**



**Step up to the Plate for the
Annual Orioles Charity Breakfast**

**SmartPark In-Car
Parking Meter**



Also In This Issue...

**Bulk Trash Calendar, Update on Downtown Master Plan, City
Launches Public Information Radio System and much more**





Mayor's Message

Jim Naugle

City Commission

Vice Mayor
Carlton B. Moore, District III

Commissioner
Christine Teel, District I

Commissioner
Dean J. Trantalis, District II

Commissioner
Cindi Hutchinson, District IV

Frequently Asked Budget Questions

I have received many questions about the City's current budget situation and would like to take this opportunity to address some of the important issues here. We are reviewing the budget closely, and have implemented new processes to monitor the status of our financial condition.

Q - I have heard that public safety will be sacrificed by laying off Police Officers and Firefighters? Is this true?

A - According to the plans submitted by the Acting City Manager, no Police Officers or Firefighters will be laid off at this time. By restructuring and eliminating non-sworn positions, the Acting City Manager plans to achieve the necessary budget reductions.

Q - Why was the Police Department given such a large budget reduction amount?

A - The police department reduction was among the lowest on a percentage

basis. The budget reductions were equitably allocated among all City departments, based upon the percentage of Net General Fund Support (i.e., the percentage of funding a department receives from the General Fund minus any program revenue).

Q - As the City grows, will we have enough employees to provide services to our citizens?

A - In the last seven years, the City's population has grown 10%, while the number of employees has increased 20%. The reductions, many of which are in vacant positions, will bring us more in line with the population trend.

Q - Was the budget problem caused by the City Commission failing to raise taxes?

A - The City Commission raised property taxes this year by 11%. Taxes have increased every year for the last five years. Fort Lauderdale's per capita tax is the highest of the top ten largest cities in Florida.

Q - With all of the new building downtown, why aren't there enough tax dollars?

A - The City receives no tax revenue from buildings under construction until a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) has been issued. It may take an entire year before we actually receive the new tax revenue. While we look forward to this increase in our tax base, many of the buildings you see are not yet providing additional dollars to the City.

The Acting City Manager and Department Directors have determined that the City must reduce expenditures this year by \$12 million to have a balanced budget. Next year's base budget must also be reduced by \$15 million. The savings plan will allow us to have a sustainable budget for the years ahead.

I invite any comments you may have. Please feel free to call me at **(954) 828-5003** or email **mayorjames@aol.com**.

Note: At press time, the information from Mayor Naugle and Acting City Manager Silva was accurate and timely. We apologize if this information is dated when you receive it. Thank you.

Public Services Department to Chlorinate Water System

The City of Fort Lauderdale Public Services Department recently completed chlorination of the drinking water treatment system. From Sunday, November 20 through Sunday, December 14, the City introduced pure chlorine into the water system to provide additional protection against bacteria. The use of free chlorine is a common practice for water suppliers that use a combined chlorine (chloramine) water

treatment method. The procedure does not cause any adverse health effects, but some individuals may have noticed a slight change in the taste or a change in the odor of tap water during the treatment period.

The City of Fort Lauderdale maintains the highest standards to ensure that clean, high quality drinking water is delivered to its customers. The City's drinking water meets all federal, state and local drinking

water quality standards.

For more information regarding the free chlorination of the City of Fort Lauderdale's water treatment system or to request a copy of the City's annual Water Quality Report, please call the **24-hour Customer Service Center at 954-828-8000** or download the Report from the City's website at www.fortlauderdale.gov.

If you would like this publication in an alternate format (large print, audio tape), contact Leslie Backus at (954) 828-4747 or email lbackus@fortlauderdale.gov.

Acting City Manager's Message



Alan A. Silva

City Works Through Financial Challenges

On October 7, I was appointed Acting City Manager of the City of Fort Lauderdale in part as a response to a budget process perceived to be at best less than open and optimal and at worst dysfunctional. Since then, I have spent long hours in City Hall. I have listened and learned a lot: to unions, to employees, to management, to civic associations, to citizens, to Commissioners.

After scrutinizing the budget and expenses, I am able to understand more fully the financial challenges confronting us. I learned of the \$8 million of salary savings that the budget assumed, meant a truly unbalanced budget. I learned of revenue overestimates and expenditure underestimates in the amount of \$4 million in this year's budget that meant even greater imbalance. I understood the \$3-6 million in

expenditure deferrals or one-shot, unsustainable revenues that underlined the current year's budget and created major problems for sustainability next year, without extraordinary tax increases.

The management team and I have come up with a balanced approach to get the City back on a sustainable budget. It is predicated on fiscal prudence and responsibility.

There will be no easy answers, no immediate turnarounds; it will be a long, arduous process that will require all of us - citizens, the City Commission, management and employees - to work together as a team to identify our strengths and weaknesses, prioritize programs, define cost-cutting opportunities, reassess ways of doing business, and understand that service levels will have to be adjusted based on what is

now affordable. As we work through this transition, we need to be open and accepting of change.

Fort Lauderdale is a world-class city that has achieved tremendous success in large part due to the strength and diversity of our workforce and our community. In order to achieve our long term goals of maintaining our high standards and to position the City for future financial stability, we must streamline operations and implement revenue enhancing measures.

I assure you that the City will continue to provide the critical resources necessary to meet the needs of our residents, business owners, tourists and employees.

I welcome your ideas and thoughts. Please feel free to email me at ASilva@fortlauderdale.gov or call me at (954) 828-5013.

Community Appearance Awards Applications Available in January

Applications for the City of Fort Lauderdale's 26th Annual Community Appearance Awards will be available in January 2004.

Presented each year by the Fort Lauderdale City Commission and the Community Appearance Board, the awards recognize homeowners, architects, developers and builders for projects that enhance the City's visual image and economic vitality. Neighborhood Associations are recognized for projects that positively affect the area of the association.

Applicants may submit new construction or renovation projects in categories including Institutional, Commercial, Parks

and Recreation, Multifamily Residence, Single Family Residence, Waterfront Properties, Special Projects, Landscape/Garden and Retail.

Eligibility requirements specify that properties must be located within the City of Fort Lauderdale's corporate limits and must be visible from a public thoroughfare. Projects must have been completed within the past two years and the submission must be authorized by the owner of the property. All new construction projects must have a Certificate of Occupancy issued by the City's Planning and Zoning Division. Complete eligibility and submission requirements are outlined in the

award application. Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on May 7, 2004 at the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center. Bronze plaques will be awarded to the winner in each category.

To request an application for the Community Appearance Awards, please call (954) 828-4741. Applications will be available in January. Completed entries must be submitted no later than February 13, 2004. Applications may be delivered or mailed to: Community Appearance Board, c/o City of Fort Lauderdale Public Information Office, 101 N.E. 3rd Avenue, Suite 300, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301.

Visit Fort Lauderdale Online at www.fortlauderdale.gov

Homestead Exemption Sign-Up Sessions

The City of Fort Lauderdale, in partnership with the Broward County Property Appraiser's Office, will conduct special taxpayer sign-up sessions for the 2004 Homestead and Senior Exemptions at City Hall, the Beach Community Center and various homeowners and civic association meetings.

The Homestead Express mobile office will be available throughout the months of December, January and February. Deputy appraisers will assist taxpayers at the following locations:

Beach Community Center

3351 N.E. 33rd Street
Dec. 12, Jan. 16, Feb. 13
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

City Hall - 100 N. Andrews Avenue

8th Floor Cafeteria
Jan. 23, Feb. 20
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Fort Lauderdale High School

1600 N.E. 3rd Avenue
Dec. 9, Jan. 29, Feb. 26th
6 - 8 p.m.

To file a Homestead Exemption, the following documents are required:

- ✓ a recorded deed or tax bill in the applicant's name,
- ✓ a current Florida's driver's license or Florida identification card, and
- ✓ a current voter registration card or declaration of domicile.

Property owners who moved in 2003 must re-file in person - the Homestead Exemption is not transferable.

Qualified residents 65 or older may be eligible for the additional Senior Exemption. Qualified seniors must have an annual total household adjusted gross income that does not exceed \$21,599. Senior exemption applications will only be taken after January 1, 2004.

For more information, or to schedule your Homeowners Association for a visit by the Homestead Express, please contact our Community Services Deputy, **Bob Wolfe**, at (954) 445-5732 or via email at media@bcpa.net.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



City Commission Meetings

City Commission meetings take place on the first and third Tuesday of the month at City Hall, located at 100 N. Andrews Avenue. The Conference Meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. in the 8th floor Conference Room. The Regular Commission Meeting begins at 6 p.m. in the first floor City Commission Chambers.

In observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, the second City Commission Meeting in January has been rescheduled. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 21, 2004.

All meetings may be viewed live online at www.fortlauderdale.gov

Holiday Sanitation Schedules

City sanitation service schedules have been adjusted in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

For Christmas Day: City sanitation services will be suspended in observance of the Christmas holiday. Garbage, recycling, yard waste and bulk trash service will not be picked up on Thursday, December 25th. If your bulk trash pickup day is Thursday, Dec. 25th, your bulk trash will be picked up on Saturday, December 27th. All other services will resume on your next regularly scheduled pickup day. The City's Trash Transfer Station, at 2101 N.W. 6th Street, will be closed on Thursday, December 25th.

For New Year's Day: Regular residential garbage collection, recycling, yard waste and bulk trash will be picked up as usual on Thursday, January 1, 2004. The City's Trash Transfer Station, at 2101 N.W. 6th Street, will be closed on Thursday, January 1, 2004.

City Offices Closed

City Hall will be closed on the following dates in observance of these holidays:

- * Thursday, December 25, 2003 in observance of Christmas Day;
- * Thursday, January 1, 2004 in observance of New Year's Day;
- * Monday, January 19, 2004, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

City Launches Code Bike Team

The City of Fort Lauderdale's Community Inspections Division has launched a Code Bike Team. Six Code Compliance Officers and one Occupational License Inspector now conduct their duties in designated City neighborhoods aboard bicycles.

"The Bike Team is a cost effective way to provide increased interaction, foster better communication and develop positive relationships between our officers and residents," said **Lori Milano**, City of Fort Lauderdale Community Inspections Director. "We're saving on vehicle operating costs and wear and tear, while creating a more personalized service for community residents."

The Code Officers completed an intense two-day BikEd educational program developed by the League of American Bicyclists and taught by a certified instructor

in the City's Police Department. The BikEd program included both on-road and



classroom instruction. Bike Team members pictured above are (left to right) Lee Kaplan, Skip Margerum, Deborah Haskins, Andre Cross, Waynette Smith, Mike Donovan and Todd Nobles.

The Bike Team is an exciting new approach to code enforcement. It provides greater visibility in the neighborhoods, allows for a closer view of code violations, and provides our officers with additional opportunities to interact with, educate and assist our residents with a variety of compliance issues, added Milano.

City Seeks Funding for Wavewall's Fiber Optic Lighting System

The saying "if walls could talk" couldn't be more fitting for the City's signature wavewall that curves along the walkways of the City of Fort Lauderdale's coastline. If the wavewall could talk it would tell stories of citizens and visitors meeting friends, people watching, soaking up South Florida's sun, stargazing, sitting and chatting on a sunny day or enjoying a breezy night. The wavewall would also tell stories about the numerous times it serves as a backdrop for photographers and filmmakers who want to capture the essence of the City's beaches, or of visitors snapping that special family photo to take home as a lifetime memory.

The wavewall was completed in 1993 as part of the 1986 General Obligation Bond. One of its unique design elements is



the one and a half miles of four-color fiber optic lighting that continuously changes colors at night. This lighting effect adds a special ambience to the wall. However, over time the elements have taken their toll on the fiber optic lighting and it no longer works.

The City's Engineering Division has researched and tested alternatives to the current system. After testing several products for an extended period of time, a lighting system has been found with

illuminators that are specifically designed for underwater conditions. The system will work well under beach conditions. However, replacing the lighting would cost approximately \$380,000 and there currently isn't funding for this expense in the City's budget.

Through a bid process, a vendor has been secured for the lighting system. Part of the proposal includes a post-installation rebate of \$50,000. The Fort Lauderdale Community Redevelopment Agency has committed \$200,000 to the project, leaving a balance of \$130,000 needed to complete it.

The wavewall has become a recognizable landmark in the City of Fort Lauderdale. The City would like to replace the fiber optic lighting system and is currently looking for a community partner that would be interested in funding the balance of this project to restore the wavewall's unique character and beauty to the City's beach when night falls.

Citizens, organizations, associations or businesses that may be interested in participating in funding the wavewall fiber optic lighting may call **Mike Fayyaz**, Assistant City Engineer, at (954) 828-6527 or e-mail mfayyaz@fortlauderdale.gov for more information.



Improvements to the *WaterWorks* 2011 Construction Process are Made

The *WaterWorks* 2011 Program Management Team (PMT) has made major strides in completing the sanitary sewer construction within portions of the Lauderdale Manors and Progresso neighborhoods. Currently, the rebuilding and restoring of roadways is underway, which is one of the final steps in completing a sanitary sewer project in a neighborhood.

Because this type of construction entails excavation in the center of existing roadways, a temporary driving service must be maintained. Additionally, when heavy rains occur throughout the South Florida area, the schedule for paving work is typically delayed and it can take several days for paving subcontractors to catch up.

During this portion of the program, the PMT has received some concerns from neighborhood residents, which can be categorized into three basic issues:

1. The length of time required between start of construction and restoration of the paved driving surface;
2. The condition of the unpaved driving surface during this period; and
3. The amount of road surface in the project area without a paved driving surface at any one time.

To address these concerns in future *WaterWorks* 2011 projects, changes have been made to construction contracts that will require the contractor to reduce the work area and perform multiple construction activities on individual streets consecutively. As a result, the amount of time from start of construction to pavement restoration will be reduced.

The PMT is also placing a higher priority on quick restoration of the road surface without significantly driving up the total cost of the project. A full 25 percent of the contractor's unit bid price for main line installation cannot be claimed until final pavement is in place. This should help to reduce the length of time a street stays unpaved. These changes will be reflected in all future construction projects.

The PMT is sensitive to the concerns of the communities impacted by construction and will continue to provide *WaterWorks* 2011 updates as the project progresses.

For more information regarding the *WaterWorks* 2011 Program, please call (954) 522-2604 or log on to www.waterworks2011.com.



Tree Ornaments Promote Christmas Tree Recycling

This year the Sanitation Division has added a new component to the annual tree recycling program. "Don't Trash Your Tree, Recycle Me" tree ornaments are being offered to citizens to remind them to recycle their trees. The ornament is approximately five inches in diameter and is printed in red and green on white 100% recycled paper. The tag includes the "Don't Trash Your Tree" message on the front and the City's Christmas tree drop off locations on the back. To get a free tree ornament, citizens may call **Casey Eckels**, City Recycling Coordinator, at (954) 828-5577 or it may be downloaded from the City's web site at www.fortlauderdale.gov.



(Note: Recycle Me! tree tags should be recycled with newspaper.)

"Treecycle" this Holiday Season

A Christmas tree takes seven to 10 years to mature and provides valuable organic materials such as carbon and nitrogen that can benefit other plants and animals. When a tree is composted or mulched, it releases these nutrients back to the earth. Returning the composted or mulched tree to the earth extends its life cycle and also brings it full circle as it ends up in the very place it started its life.



To extend the life of their trees, citizens may bring them to one of the four locations listed below beginning Friday, December 26 through Saturday, January 10. All decorations, lights, tinsel, nails, tacks, tree stand or any other materials must be removed from the trees.

For more information about recycling your Christmas tree, please call **Casey Eckels**, City Recycling Coordinator, at (954) 828-5577.

Magazines and Catalogues Convert to Cash for City's Schools

City of Fort Lauderdale schools can earn dollars for their recycling efforts by participating in the City's annual Magazine/Catalogue Recycling Program. The City will kick off the program beginning Wednesday, January 7 and it will run through Friday, March 12. The program is open to all public and private elementary, middle and high schools within the City of Fort Lauderdale.

All participating schools will be financially rewarded based on the tons of old magazines and catalogues collected. The top three schools with the greatest tonnage will also receive a bonus check from the City.

Residents, multi-family dwellings, businesses and community groups are encouraged to donate magazines and catalogues to local schools participating in the program. Homeowners and civic associations may also form partnerships with local schools to earn points toward the annual Recycling Incentive Grant.

Schools that would like to participate in the program should sign up early as this is a first come first serve program and there is limited space available. To register for the program or to locate a participating school, call **Casey Eckels**, City Recycling Coordinator, at (954) 828-5577.



2003-2004 Christmas Tree Drop Off Locations

Bayview Park: N.E. 44th Street and Bayview Drive

Croissant Park: S.W. 17th Street and S.W. 2nd Avenue (next to the railroad tracks and east of the ball field)

Holiday Park: E. Sunrise Boulevard and U.S.-1 (south of War Memorial Auditorium near the tennis courts)

Melrose Community Park: 3400 Davie Boulevard

(Only trees brought to one of the above locations will be recycled. Trees left at the curbside will be sent to the landfill.)

ATTENTION!

The City of Fort Lauderdale Residential Trash Transfer Station will close to the general public at the end of the business day (3:30 p.m.) on Saturday, January 3, 2004.

The Sanitation Division Thanks You For Your Patronage

For additional information please call the City's 24-hour Customer Service Center at (954) 828-8000.

2004 Bulk Trash Pickup Schedule

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29						

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April

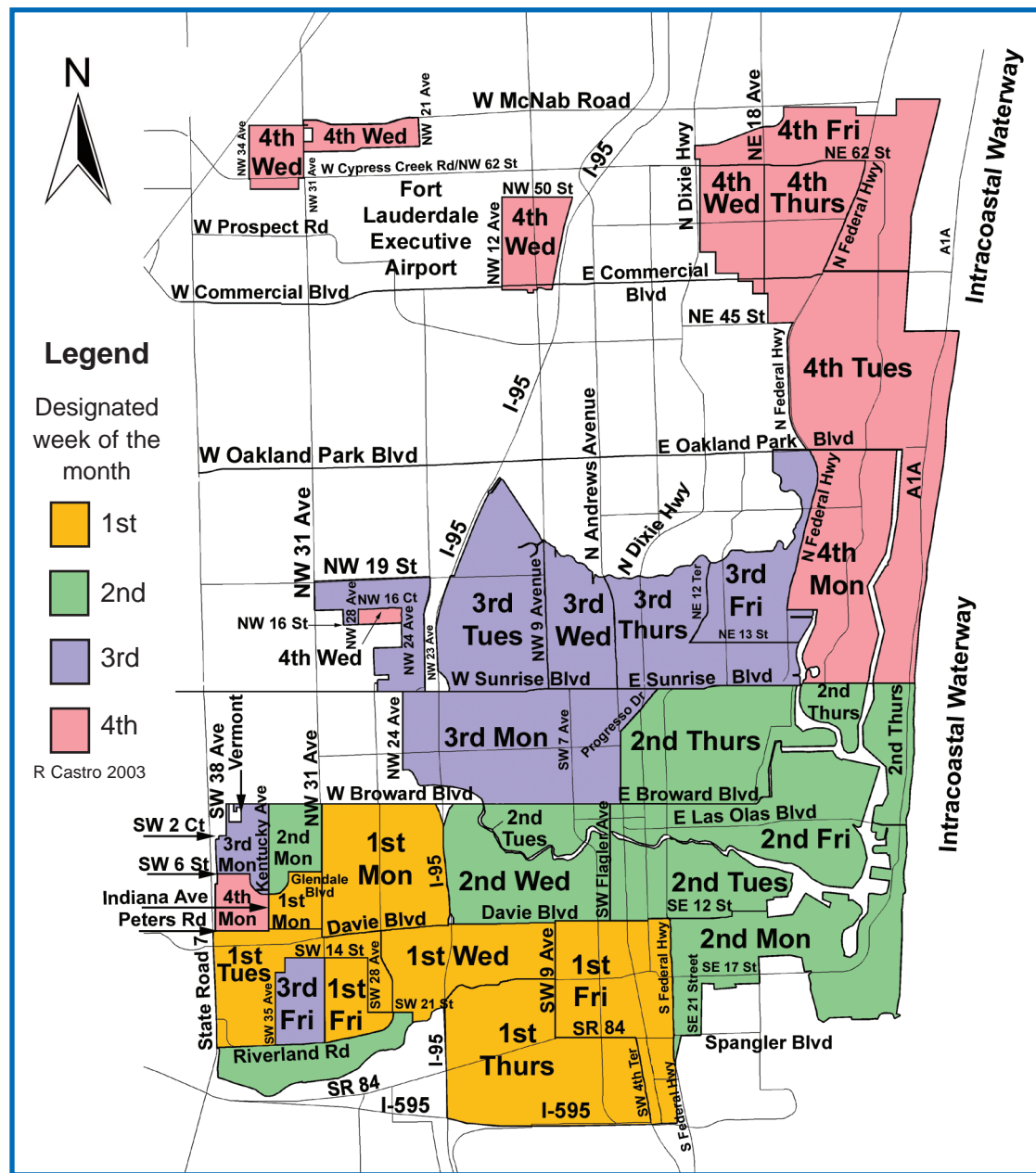
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



How to Read the Bulk Trash Map and Calendar

1. Locate the area of your home on the map.
2. Note the color of your section and the week of the month for bulk trash pickup.
3. Look for the same color on the calendar to determine your specific pickup days.

July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

When School Is Out



Parks & Recreation Is In!

While school is out this holiday season, the City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department is in! Your child will enjoy the fun and excitement of our sports, crafts and activity camps. So why let the kids camp at home, when there's plenty of sights to see and activities to take part in this holiday winter break. Below is a listing of just a few highlights. For others call (954) 828-PARK (7275).

Croissant Park - 245 West Park Drive

Call (954) 468-1487

Action Kids Winter Break

Children in kindergarten through 5th grades will enjoy this fun-filled camp as they channel their energy with sports and fitness. Get into the holiday spirit with cookie decorating and crafts. Children will build lasting friendships.

Dates: Dec. 22, 23, 26, 29, 30 and Jan. 2

Hours: 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Fee: Residents - \$90 per child

Non-Resident - \$150 per child

Youth Enrichment Scholarship (Y.E.S.) Fee - \$30

To qualify for the Y.E.S., applicant must be a City of Fort Lauderdale resident and show proof of free or reduced lunch status.

Warfield Park - 1000 N. Andrews Ave.

Call (954) 759-6896

Warfield Kids Winter Break Program

Children ages 6 to 12 will enjoy lots of fun at this winter break camp. This supervised camp offers a variety of crafts, games, parties and special activities. Children should bring bag lunches daily.

Dates: Dec. 22, 23, 26, 29, 30 and Jan. 2

The program will not be open: Dec. 24, 25, 31, or Jan. 1.

Hours: 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Fee: Residents - \$90 per child

Youth Enrichment Scholarship (Y.E.S.) Fee - \$30

Note: The Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department winter break camps will not operate on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve or New Year's Day.

College Swim Forum

Along with snowbirds from the north, collegiate athletic teams return this year for the annual winter training camps at the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex. Since 1935, college varsity swimming and diving teams have flocked to Fort Lauderdale during December and January for a few weeks of intense training in preparation for their NCAA conference championships in February.

More than 45 teams will travel to Fort Lauderdale for training camps during winter break including:

Boston University, Clarion University, Drexel University, Duke University, University of Georgia, Ohio State University, Ohio Wesleyan University, Tufts University, University of Illinois-Chicago, University of Denver, University of Massachusetts, University of Utah, William Smith College, Williams College and Wellesley College.

To accommodate the teams, practice sessions are scheduled at the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex, Croissant Park Pool and Fort Lauderdale High, Northeast High, Stranahan High and Sunrise Middle School Pools.

Spectators are welcome to watch training sessions and competitions at the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Admission is free. For a complete schedule of events and call (954) 828-4580.

Parks and Rec. Announces 2004 Facility Reservation Fees

From social events to a game of flag football or soccer, the City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department offers a wide variety of amenities that cater to your every need. For a nominal fee, our sports-minded residents can reserve playing time on one of our well-maintained ball fields or party planners can work with the ambiance of our scenic parks.

Effective January 1, 2004, the Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department will implement new facility reservation fees. Ball field reservations

will cost \$25 per hour. There is an additional fee for services such as lights and field preparation.

Several City parks have spacious pavilions, open space and gazebos that make a great backdrop for birthday parties and family reunions. Pavilion rentals are \$50 and are offered at Civic Peoples, Cooley's Landing, Melrose, Palm Aire Village, Holiday, Floranda and Middle River Terrace Parks.

The City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department offers several gazebos, including the Esplanade

pavilion along the Riverwalk and at Colee Hammock, which are popular wedding sites.

Not to be excluded from our vast array of facilities, our four-legged friends can enjoy a frolic on Canine Beach located just north of Sunrise Boulevard Friday through Sunday from 3 to 7 p.m. Annual residential passes are \$20/dog and \$35/dog for non-residents. Temporary passes are available every weekend at the beach.

For more information, please call (954) 828-PARK.

A Field of Dreams at Mills Pond Park

The recently renovated Mills Pond Park is the talk of the town these days. It has always been known as Fort Lauderdale's premier sports complex, but now, with more than \$60,000 of renovations, the park is more user-friendly and accommodates players and guests in a fun, relaxed, friendly environment.

"We've recently completed a facelift of the park," said Recreation Programmer II **Jason McDannold**, who manages Mills Pond Park. "Our Public Services Department has built and installed a new concession stand that looks like a sports bar. The renovations also included bathrooms, fencing and new clay. This facility now has a family atmosphere and is centered around adult sports and programming."

Mills Pond Park, located at 2201 NW 9th St., is home to more than 211 softball teams and a senior adult softball league. The park has five adult softball fields and three multi-purpose fields where more than 550 people play per night.

Several divisions and categories of teams are available to all levels of play including advanced, intermediate and recreational; men's; coed; and corporate coed. Leagues are held one night per week and the season includes 10 games plus playoffs. The next season begins December 7.

Scott Poole, team manager for Eastside Pub Men's Division II team, has been playing softball at Mills Pond Park for 12 years.

"We've been playing at Mills Pond Park since the park

opened in the early 90s," said Poole.

"We have played softball on



Mills Pond Park offers a variety of adult sports and activities.

many fields around Broward County and this is by far one of the finer fields to play on. The atmosphere keeps people here even after they're done playing."

In addition to softball, Mills Pond Park offers a wide variety of amenities including batting cages, where softball and baseball players have a variety of ball speeds to test their ability to hit the ball; the Gold Coast Water-ski Club, where you can learn to water-ski, improve your ski skills and have fun; and the R.C. Race Club, where racers can take their gas or battery operated radio-controlled cars and trucks out for a spin. Adult flag football is also available throughout the year.

"Mills Pond Park is a gem in this community, and I sincerely hope that Fort Lauderdale residents will come out to see what we've done here," said McDannold. "This is undoubtedly the best place to play softball in South Florida."

The park also has pavilions and an assembly hall for rental.

For more information about softball leagues or activities at Mills Pond Park, please call **(954) 759-5920**.



Orioles Spring Training Season Opens Against World Series Champion Marlins

The Birds return to South Florida in mid-February with practice sessions open to the general public at no charge. 2004 Baltimore Orioles spring training tickets go on sale January 10 at Fort Lauderdale Stadium, located off I-95 and Commercial Boulevard. Home games begin March 4 when the Orioles take on the World Series Champion Florida Marlins at 1:05 p.m. The

Baltimore Orioles have made Fort Lauderdale their spring home since 1996.

The Orioles will again offer the Starlite Diner Senior Discount Days. Seniors, ages 60 and over, may purchase a reserved grandstand seat for \$5 for all weekday

afternoon games. Advance purchase is required. Holy Cross Hospital will sponsor Seniors Run the Bases Day and kids (14 and under) will take to the basepaths following the March 6 game against the Montreal Expos. The Batter's Box is on deck to host the annual Little League Day.

For information on all of these events, season tickets, group sales, to reserve the Orioles skybox and to be included in the Orioles spring mailing, call the Orioles Spring Training Line at **(954) 776-1921**.

Step Up to the Plate

Your ticket to the annual charity breakfast, co-hosted by the City of Fort Lauderdale and the Baltimore Orioles, includes a hot buffet breakfast, photo opportunities with the Orioles mascot and an on-field autograph session with Orioles players. The event will take place on Sunday, February 29, 6:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., at Fort Lauderdale Stadium. To order tickets, call the Orioles Spring Training Line at **(954) 776-1921** to receive a breakfast flyer.



2004 Spring Training Home Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
March 4	Florida	1:05 p.m.
March 6	Montreal	1:05 p.m.
March 8	Los Angeles	1:05 p.m.
March 10	Florida	1:05 p.m.
March 13	NY Mets	1:05 p.m.
March 15	NY Mets	1:05 p.m.
March 17	Houston	1:05 p.m.
March 19	Los Angeles	1:05 p.m.
March 21	Boston	1:05 p.m.
March 23	Montreal	1:05 p.m.
March 25	St. Louis	1:05 p.m.
March 27	Florida	7:05 p.m.
March 30	St. Louis	1:05 p.m.
March 31	Minnesota	1:05 p.m.



Fire and Water A Good Combination in City's Public Safety Arena

Fire and water typically don't mix, except in the City of Fort Lauderdale. Recently, the Fire-Rescue Department adopted Ocean Rescue from the Parks and Recreation Department. This is a logical move for the two groups because they both focus on emergency medical response.

"Fort Lauderdale is one of the few cities at the forefront of a growing trend that recognizes the benefits of having Ocean Rescue under Fire-Rescue's umbrella," said **Jeff Justinak**, Assistant to the Fire Chief.

"The adoption of Ocean Rescue into the Fire-Rescue Department broadens the services our Department will be able to provide to the community," added Fire Chief **Otis J. Latin, Sr.**

Fort Lauderdale's citizens and visitors will realize numerous benefits from the union including improved medical response times and consistent medical treatment. Ocean and Fire-Rescue personnel will have a better understanding of each groups operations, will participate in cohesive, joint training under the City's medical director and will develop improved communications that will now operate on the same system.

Other benefits include increased training in communications and report writing, building tower location mapping grids into Fire-Rescue's Geographical Information System, replacing and updating medical equipment and highlighting Ocean Rescue as a public safety career alternative.

Long-term medical and operational objectives are also being mapped out for Ocean Rescue. All lifeguards currently have First Responder certifications and several of them are certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT). The Fire-Rescue Department will help lifeguards obtain EMT and Paramedic certification.

Ocean Rescue currently operates with 28 lifeguards from 15 towers and is responsible for protecting 2.6 of the City's 3.2 miles of public beach areas.

Although it will be challenging, another goal Ocean Rescue hopes to reach in the future is adding three to five towers and expanding their coverage to include the unprotected beach area north of Sunrise Boulevard.

"We're off to a good start and have set some positive goals for Ocean Rescue. With the tremendous sense of employee dedication, commitment and professionalism I have experienced by their staff, I am confident we will achieve these goals successfully," said Chief Justinak.



Fort Lauderdale lifeguards respond to approximately 2,000 medical emergencies per year.

Marine Summit Yields Insights

The City of Fort Lauderdale, in partnership with the Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF), completed the 5th Annual Marine Industry Summit. The event brought together more than 120 leaders from the public and private sectors to examine issues and opportunities essential to the growth and development of the marine industry.



Areas of focus included Economic Trends/Government Programs; Comprehensive Plans; Sites for Industry Expansion; Intergovernmental Coordination; Public Education/Industry Image and Workforce.

Several priorities were identified during the summit including the need to strengthen the marine industry workforce, preserve recreational waterfront properties, generate marine industry expansion, and capture a greater share of the mega yacht market.

"Our Marine Master Plan Committees are working closely with community leaders, agencies and organizations to address these and other vital issues," said Frank Herhold, Executive Director of the MIASF.

Initiatives being undertaken include developing strategies for business attraction, retention and expansion to strengthen the marine industry workforce and stimulate job creation; establishing guidelines for the preservation of recreational waterfront properties; working with Broward County on a Marine Facility Siting Study; and compiling a database of locations and properties suitable for marine industry expansion.

Ongoing efforts also include hosting the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show, which generates more than \$500 million in annual economic impact for the region; marketing initiatives aimed at familiarizing mega yacht captains with local facilities and amenities; and enhancing the MIASF "Our Waterways, Our Future," image campaign.

"It's important for the City to work in partnership with the marine industry to stimulate additional growth, development and expansion," said **Jamie Hart**, City of Fort Lauderdale Marine Facilities Manager. "We look forward to continuing our participation in the summits to help ensure the marine industry's future success."

Stormy's Waterway Pollution Facts



Pollutants enter our waterways from many sources such as discharge pipes that can be monitored and controlled. Pollution from rainwater runoff has many diverse sources and is harder to control.



Waterway pollution from unspecified sources is primarily caused by humans. We can prevent pollution of our waterways through proper handling of chemicals, pesticides and hazardous materials used in the home.

Downtown Master Plan Gets Tentative Approval

The Fort Lauderdale City Commission has tentatively approved the Consolidated Downtown Master Plan. The Master Plan is intended to guide future growth, development and public investment in Downtown, and ensure the quality of life for those who live, work and visit the heart of Fort Lauderdale. The plan builds on past planning efforts, incorporates current trends and provides a framework of planning principles to create an active, livable and diverse Downtown.

Three "character areas" are proposed for Downtown: *Downtown Core*, the mixed-use center of downtown with intensive scale streets and blocks, intensive commercial and civic uses, and high density housing; *Near Downtown*, the area immediately surrounding the core featuring intermediate scale streets and blocks, a mix of institutional service and offices, and a greater variety of housing; and *Urban Neighborhoods*, transitional areas primarily residential with community serving retail and employment, and neighborhood scale streets and blocks.

Urban Design Guidelines are presented in the Master Plan for street and building design along with street section examples. The plan also makes recommendations on key issues including neighborhood identity; transitions in building intensity; preserving and enhancing the street system and on-street parking; alternatives to the car; greening the downtown; workforce housing strategies; extroverted pedestrian-oriented buildings; walkable, mixed-income neighborhoods; connectivity between the north and south sides of the New River; and more.

The Master Plan provides design criteria suitable for guiding decisions on downtown development including the 2,960 dwelling units that were recently recertified for the City's Downtown Regional Activity Center (RAC) by the Broward County Planning Council. Development projects in the Downtown-RAC will now be reviewed for compatibility with the Master Plan and subject to City Commission review.

The Consolidated Master Plan is expected to be finalized by the end of December. The draft Master Plan may be downloaded from the City's website by logging on to www.fortlauderdale.gov. Copies are also available on CD for \$5 by calling the Planning and Zoning Division at (954) 828-3266.

For more information, please contact **Bruce Chatterton**, Planning and Zoning Manager, at (954) 828-5981.

City Launches Public Information Radio Station

The City of Fort Lauderdale has launched a Public Information Radio Station located at 1610 AM on the radio dial. The station, which is part of the Highway Advisory Radio System (HARS) will provide public service announcements and updates about an array of City-related information.

Residents and visitors in the City of Fort Lauderdale are encouraged to tune in to 1610 AM to hear updates and advisories 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The station will broadcast information about City programs, traffic and transportation, parking, boating, parks and recreation, public services, utilities, festivals, special events and more. In the event of an emergency, the station will provide the public with critical safety and security updates.

The range of station 1610 AM covers approximately a 5-mile radius from the transmitter's location in Holiday Park. The City of Fort Lauderdale will also be utilizing four portable informational signs (see



photo at left) which can be strategically placed around the City to advise motorists to tune to radio station 1610 AM for the most up-to-date information.

For more information about 1610 AM, please contact the City of Fort Lauderdale Public Information Office at (954) 828-4748 or visit www.fortlauderdale.gov.

East Area CAP Update

The City of Fort Lauderdale's Community Area Planning (CAP) initiative completed a second community forum for the City's East

Area in October. Participants had an opportunity to provide input and feedback on issue statements developed by City staff and the Community Leadership Committee

(CLC), a group of 25 stakeholders appointed by the City Commission. The issue statements, which were generated based on public input obtained at earlier CAP workshops and forums, received a high level of agreement among citizens. Questionnaires were also completed at Community Forum II to ensure that the community's vision is being accurately represented.

Since Community Forum II, the CLC along with an Interdepartmental Work Team (IWT) and City staff have been collectively formulating specific goals and objectives that address the following 12 areas of focus: Affordability; Parks & Open Space; Development & Neighborhood Integrity; Corridor Appearance; Economic Base & Quality of Life; Nuisances & Community Image; Parking & Land Use Conflicts; Marine Related Activity; Street System & Access; Government Relations; Transit & Mobility Options; and Visionary Leadership.

The next step in the CAP process will center on further refining the goals, objectives and strategies, and developing implementation proposals that will include timeframes, costs, grant funding, correlation to the City's Capital Improvement Plan and existing or planned projects. At the next community forum, participants will be able to provide feedback on the implementation plan. Once accepted by the community, the plan will be presented to the City Commission for approval in Spring 2004.

For more information or to find out how you can participate in the CAP initiative, call (954) 828-8980 or log on to www.fortlauderdale.gov/cap.



Inside FLPD

Fort Lauderdale Police Department



FLPD Recovers Stolen Property with Pawnshop Tracking System

During the holidays, burglaries tend to be more frequent than any other time of the year. Victims hope to recover some of their prized possessions.

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLPD) uses PawnTrac to identify and recover stolen property for victims of burglaries. PawnTrac is a centralized database of all pawn transactions that occurred in the County. This system is provided by the



Ofc. Seguin searches database for stolen property.

Broward Sheriff's Office and increases the probability of recovering stolen property.

Every day, people pawn items in exchange for money. After filling out the state-mandated pawn transaction form and leaving a thumbprint, a permanent record is filed about the person selling the property and details about the items they have pawned. This information is extremely useful for investigators in the Burglary Unit, said **Sgt. Ted Tyzo**.

"Pawnshops are everywhere and serve a legitimate purpose," said Tyzo. "By the very nature of their business, pawnshop brokers are likely to receive stolen property. Most of the time, stolen property is accepted without the knowledge of the pawnshop employee. When this occurs, a pawnshop can be very useful in solving crimes and putting the criminal in jail."

Officer Lori Seguin, who is assigned to the Burglary Unit, monitors the Broward County pawnshop database. She receives data on approximately 1,000 transactions a week and searches the system for stolen property that is identified on a police report.

"We encourage all residents to take pictures of their property; log the make, model and serial numbers of big ticket items; and store this information in a safe and secure location," said Officer Seguin. "The easiest way for us to recover stolen items that have been pawned is to have serial numbers for the property. Many homeowners who are victims of burglaries are not able to describe their property or provide any identifying numbers, and that's not good. Recovering is nearly impossible at that point."

Operation Grinch to Keep Shoppers Safe During the Holidays

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLPD) will increase police surveillance to keep shoppers safe this holiday season. Throughout the holidays Operation Grinch, a special task force, will be on the lookout at all major shopping areas to maintain increased shopper safety this holiday season.

Fort Lauderdale police officers will be combating crimes of opportunity at various shopping centers and adjacent parking lots with increased presence. FLPD offers the following tips for shoppers:

- ✓ Exercise caution and do not display large sums of cash. Pay with check or credit/debit card.

- ✓ Park in a well-lighted space, and be sure to lock the car, close the windows, and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.

- ✓ After exiting the parking lot, look through your vehicle's rear view mirror periodically to observe if you are being followed by another vehicle.

Stay alert and be aware of your environment at all times. For more information about Operation Grinch, call **Sgt. Jan Jordan** at (954) 828-6410.

City to Launch SmartPark In-Car Parking Meter

The City of Fort Lauderdale Parking Services Division will introduce a new in-car parking meter that's sure to take the hassle out of your parking experience. SmartPark, a small pocket calculator-size electronic device with a smartcard, will be available for purchase early next year.

The initial one-time refundable deposit for the SmartPark unit is \$55, and customers must purchase the SmartCard for \$10. The smartcard, shown on the left, is loaded with a prepaid amount and is inserted into the SmartPark, which is then placed inside the vehicle and displays the parking time purchased. Additional funds can be added to the smartcards in \$5 increments.

This in-car parking device may be used at most single space parking meters, municipal parking lots and municipal garages in Fort Lauderdale.

"With SmartPark, the motorists pays for actual parking time only," said Assistant Parking Division Manager **John Hoelzle**. "The state-of-the-art technology is a cashless operation that provides ease of use and comfort for our customers."

For more information about the SmartPark in-car parking meter, call the Parking Services Division at (954) 828-3700.



SmartPark makes parking easy.

Bike Medics on the Path to Saving Lives

Concerts, festivals, sporting events, carnivals and similar outdoor events are a lot of fun to attend, however, in an emergency they can be a dangerous obstacle for someone who needs emergency medical care. The Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Department's new Bike Medics Team (BMT) is an alternative to providing rapid emergency medical response at events where large crowds are gathered.

Bike Medics provide many benefits to the citizens, as well as the Department. They can move through crowds faster, travel over some terrains better than rescue vehicles, enhance Advanced Life Support (ALS), improve services and decrease the amount of time a patient has to go without medical care.

"Our department is dedicated to implementing innovative, cost-effective programs such as Bike Medics that will benefit citizens, visitors and our department," said **Fire Chief Otis J. Latin, Sr.**

Pedal-powered emergency medical response saves on operational costs. Wear and tear on rescue vehicles is reduced, which

can help save on future maintenance and repairs; paramedics are not paid by the City to work at the event so overtime is not created; and with Bike Medics on site, rescue vehicles do not need to sit outside an event waiting for a possible emergency.

Using bikes is also environmentally friendly. Natural resources needed to operate rescue vehicles are saved and the bikes do not generate pollution.

The BMT consists of 23 Fort Lauderdale paramedics who volunteer to be team members. Prior to the program's launch, team members participated in numerous hours of training and conditioning where they practiced and improved bicycling skills. Medical training for the Bike Medics included becoming familiar with the location of the medical supplies on the bikes and training on a handheld automatic electronic defibrillator (AED), a medical device used to assist patients who are experiencing cardiac arrest.

"The Bike Medics Team give us the opportunity to promote bike and helmet safety, to create awareness for the Department and our services and to personally interact with the citizens we serve," said **Robert Edgar, EMS and Training Division Chief.**

During a special event, six of the 23 bike medics will be operational and will be divided into two-person teams that



ride hybrid-type mountain bikes equipped with saddlebags, flashing lights, sirens and horns. Bike Medics have immediate access to their medical gear as each bike is stocked with a complete set of medical supplies. In addition, two-person teams carry a radio and a handheld AED.

When responding to an emergency, Bike Medics are able to perform everything paramedics on a rescue unit perform except backboarding and transporting patients. If this is necessary, a Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue unit will be called in to assist with the transportation of a patient.

The Bike Medics are funded by a \$14,120 grant from the State of Florida Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The grant covers operations, bikes, uniforms, equipment and training.

Bike medics work strictly on a detail basis, which means they are paid through contributions from businesses or other organizations that hire them to provide emergency medical services at events held within the City.



Fort Lauderdale Firefighters In Need of Toys for Good Little Girls and Boys

The combined efforts of the Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Department and the Fort Lauderdale Firefighters Benevolent Association for the annual Toy Drive have lit up the faces of hundreds of children throughout the City during the holidays. The Fire-Rescue Department and the Benevolent Association will be collecting toys again this year beginning Monday, December 1st. Citizens who would like to help Fort Lauderdale families in need may bring new, unwrapped toys for children ages 12 and under to any Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue station from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.

Toys may also be dropped off at City Hall, 1st Floor, located at 100 N. Andrews Avenue, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, or at Fort Lauderdale Ocean Rescue's

Headquarters, located at 501 Seabreeze Boulevard (Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex), from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Donations for the Toy Drive will be accepted at all locations through Monday, December 15th.

With the community's support, Fort Lauderdale firefighters can continue this charitable tradition this holiday season.

For more information about the Toy Drive, please call the Public Information Line at **(954) 828-4755** or e-mail **JHeiser@fortlauderdale.gov**.



Around Town

SunTrust Sunday Jazz Brunch

The Downtown Riverwalk along the New River comes alive on the first Sunday of every month for the SunTrust Sunday Jazz Brunch offering plenty of jazz, food and activities for the entire family. The event is one of the most popular monthly events in the City featuring six stages along the New River highlighting some of South Florida's most popular jazz musicians from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Area businesses offer a variety of tasty treats for purchase. Picnic baskets, blankets, chairs and dogs are welcome. For more information or for the 2004 entertainment schedule, call the SunTrust Sunday Jazz Brunch hotline at **(954) 828-5985** or visit the City Festivals web site at www.fortlauderdale.gov/festivals.

Junior League Pavers at Holiday Park



Send a message of love with a paver at Holiday Park.

Give the gift that will last a lifetime! This Holiday Season, you can personalize a paver or two for your loved ones at the Junior League Play Station at Holiday Park.

Save now by ordering your pavers before December 31. The holiday special is as follows: one line - \$35, two lines - \$50 and three lines - \$65. All pavers ordered by

Dec. 31 will be installed by Feb. 1, 2004.

In addition, the Junior League of Greater Fort Lauderdale is selling memorial trees at Holiday Park. The cost of this living tribute ranges from \$250-\$2,000. Available trees include pine, tamarind, oak, pigeon plums and Chusia rosea trees.

For more information, call **(954) 462-1350** or email JLFTLaud@aol.com. All proceeds benefit the Junior League of Greater Fort Lauderdale Holiday Park Project, Junior League Play Station.

Fort Lauderdale Tennis Championships

The Jimmy Evert Tennis Center will host the 2004 Maroone Mixed City of Fort Lauderdale Tennis Championships on January 17-18 and January 24-25.



There are divisions for all levels of play. Entry deadline for Divisions A, B and C is January 14. Entry deadline for Open, Husband and Wife, Over 50 and Combined Ages over 75 is January 21. The Player Party will take place on Saturday, January 24 at 4 p.m. Entry fees are \$15 per person for one event, additional events are \$10 per person.

The Jimmy Evert Tennis Center (JETC), located in Fort Lauderdale's Holiday Park, is known throughout the world as one of the nation's finest public tennis facilities. Its rich and distinguished history includes everything from teaching children how to improve their serves and backhands to contributing to the development of tennis professionals such as Chris Evert and Jennifer Capriati.

For more information about the 2004 Maroone Mixed City of Fort Lauderdale Tennis Championships, call **(954) 828-5378**.

Holiday Events at Stranahan House

The Stranahan House will host a candlelight tour for the Holidays. The Candlelight Open House will take place on Wednesday, December 17 with tours, holiday decorations, refreshments and music from 5 to 7 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person. The Stranahan House is located at 335 S.E. Sixth Avenue in Downtown Fort Lauderdale. For more information, call **(954) 524-4736**.

Santa VS. The Snowman at IMAX

This holiday season, take the kids to see Santa vs. the Snowman at the Blockbuster IMAX Theater. This hilarious holiday comedy is sure to please adults and children alike. The movie runs through January 4, 2004. For more information, call **(954) 463-IMAX (4629)**.

Something's Fishy at the Museum of Art



Chicago had cows, Miami had flamingos and soon Fort Lauderdale will have fish out of water. Beaux Arts, a fundraising arm of the Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale and The Galleria Mall are spearheading Something's Fishy, a temporary, community-wide art installation of life-sized tailwalking sailfish that will be painted, collaged or otherwise embellished by artists. BeauxArts is seeking sponsors from the community to support this are project while supporting the Museum of Art.

Something's Fishy will climax with the BeauxArts Gala Auction at The Galleria Mall in conjunction with the February grand re-opening. All proceeds will benefit the Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale. The fin art will be displayed around Broward County during the months of January and February 2004. The Sailfish Splash Gala-Auction will take place on Saturday evening, February 21, 2004.

For more information about Something's Fishy or to obtain sponsorship information, please call **(954) 472-4816**. To learn more about the gala auction, call **(954) 565-3842**.

Teen Scene Talent Show Celebrates MLK Day

Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday with Fort Lauderdale's Teen Scene. The Second Annual MLK

Talent Explosion will take place on Friday, Jan. 23 at 8 p.m. at the African American Research Library and Cultural Center.

Fort Lauderdale's Teen Scene drummers, dancers and special invited guests will commemorate the life and works of Dr. King through inspirational music and theatrical acts.

This popular event is free, but tickets are required. The entire family is sure to enjoy this musical journey of celebration and hope for future generations.

Tickets are available at the following locations: Parks Administration Office, Mizell Cultural Center, Mills Pond, Bass, and Lauderdale Manors Parks. For more information, call (954) 828-5346.

MLK Committee Hosts King Week Events

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee, Inc. (MLKCC) will host a variety of 2004 King Week events. The annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Parade will take place on Monday, Jan. 19 with a new route along Sunrise Boulevard and ending at the City of Fort Lauderdale's Holiday Park, where the MLKCC Festival will take place. The Festival will feature a culturally diverse marketplace and performances by national and local jazz, R&B and gospel artists. The MLKCC Awards Gala will take place on Sunday, Jan. 25 at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, featuring a multi-cultural musical tribute concert, a welcome reception and an awards ceremony recognizing and honoring past and present Broward County civil and human rights pioneers. For more information, call (954) 660-7603 or info@mlkcc.org.

Note: While we make every effort to include timely information, circumstances occasionally force changes to events listed. Please call the numbers listed prior to attending. Additionally, current events may cause delays in mail delivery of this publication. Should you receive this publication after an event has occurred please accept our apologies.

Las Olas Art Fair Set For Jan. 3 & 4

This January, keep the New Year festivities alive by attending the 16th Annual Las Olas Art Fair on Saturday and Sunday, January 3 & 4 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For one weekend only, this traditional event welcomes over 300 artists from 40 different states showcasing magnificent artwork. Las Olas Boulevard will be transformed into an open-air art gallery with life-size sculptures, landscape photography, striking oil paintings, uniquely crafted jewelry, pottery and so much more. Also featured at this popular, annual event will be live music by several well-known entertainers. Admission is free. For more information, call (954) 472-3755.



Official Poster of the Las Olas Art Fair

Kwanzaa Kuumba Celebration & Karamu Feast Set

Pay homage to the sixth principle of Kwanzaa at Bass Park on Wednesday, Dec. 31. Kuumba, which means creativity, will be celebrated through tribal storytelling, ethnic dances, stage performances and art exhibits. This free event, taking place from 1 to 5 p.m., will culminate with native foods of the Karamu Feast. Co-sponsored by the Kwanzaa Coordinating Committee and the African American Research Library. Bass Park is located at 2750 N.W. 19th St. For more information, call (954) 828-8498.

Register Now! - 14th Annual Senior Games Announced

Registration is currently underway for the 14th Annual South Florida Senior Games scheduled to take place **January 21 through February 5, 2004**. The Senior Games consist of athletic, non-athletic and social events ranging from tennis, golf, track & field, swimming and bowling, to bridge, a bake-off and fine arts. Events are held at venues throughout the City of Fort Lauderdale and Broward County. The Senior Games, sanctioned by the Florida Sports Foundation, serve as the qualifier for the Florida Senior Games State Championships. Sponsored by the *Sun-Sentinel*, Holman Lincoln Mercury, North Broward Hospital District Senior Services, *Jewish Journal* and the *Hi-Riser*, the Games are presented by the City of Fort Lauderdale and Broward County Parks and Recreation Division, along with the support and involvement of many other municipal and private entities. For information, or to be placed on the mailing list, call (954) 357-8170, (954) 537-2844 (TTY), or email dhorowitz@broward.org.

Hotels of Fort Lauderdale Exhibit

The Fort Lauderdale Historical Society presents a new exhibit in the New River Inn opening Dec. 16 entitled *Hotels of Fort Lauderdale: Always Room at the Inn*. The exhibit will run in conjunction with a lecture series following the rise of the hotel industry in Fort Lauderdale from its humble beginnings as downtown hotels centered on the railroad, to the 1950s-1960's explosion, to today's tourist resort destinations. It will include artifacts, photographs, postcard images, and other assorted memorabilia from historic landmarks including the 1905 New River Inn, the Amfitrite (a floating ship hotel), the Hill and Lewis Hotels (the first African American owned hotels), The Renaissance Fort Lauderdale and much more. Admission to the Old Fort Lauderdale Museum of History will be free on Dec. 16.

The lecture series will continue on Feb. 10 and will cover the Governor's Club, the Riverside Hotel, Lauderdale Beach Hotel and the Amfitrite. Mid-century hotels, such as the Yankee Clipper, Escape, Jolly Roger and Lago Mar will be reviewed on March 9. For more information, call (954) 463-4431 ext. 17.

Know Your Flood Zone

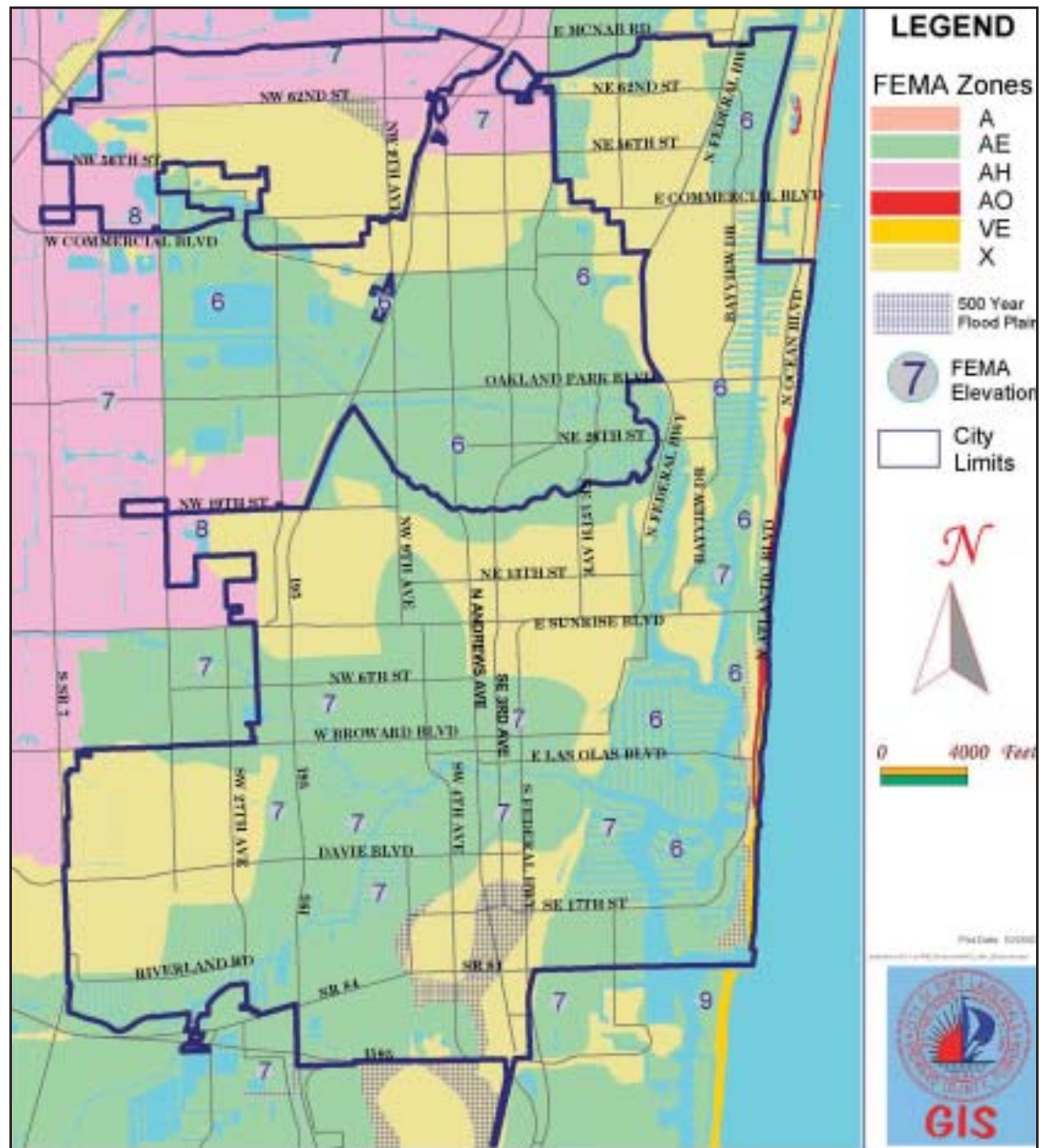
Is your property at risk of incurring flood damage? The City maintains a floodplain map that can help you identify where your property lies in relation to the City's flood zone boundaries and flood elevation levels.

The flood zone map, shown to the right, is accessible by visiting the Construction Services Bureau, located at 300 N.W. 1st Ave. The Bureau can also be reached by calling (954) 828-5203 or (954) 828-3266. Property owners can also access this map from the City's website by logging on to www.fortlauderdale.gov/GIS/index.htm, selecting the Create Maps and Queries menu item, selecting the Parcel Information Reporter hyperlink and entering the property address in the form provided.

What Designation Applies To Your Property

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) bases flood hazard data on the one percent chance of Fort Lauderdale experiencing a 500-year flood. The City's flood zones include areas prone to the following:

- * **A** - Areas subject to inundation by a 100-year (1%-annual-chance) flood. Because detailed hydraulic analyses have not been performed, no base flood elevation or depths are shown.
- * **AE** - Areas subject to inundation by a 100-year flood as determined by detailed methods. Base flood elevations are shown within these zones.
- * **AH** - Areas subject to inundation by 100-year shallow flooding (usually areas with ponds) where average depths are between one and three feet.
- * **AO** - Areas subject to inundation by 100-year shallow flooding (usually sheet flow on sloping terrain) where average depths are between one and three feet. Average flood depths derived from detailed hydraulic analysis are shown within this zone.
- * **X** - Areas of moderate or minimal hazard from the principal source of flooding in the area as identified in the community Flood Insurance Study (FIS). Buildings in these zones, however, could be flooded by severe, concentrated rainfall. Local stormwater drainage systems are not normally considered in the community's FIS. The failure of a local drainage system creates areas of high flood risk within zone X. Flood insurance is available in participating communities but is not required by regulation.



- * **VE** - Coastal areas subject to inundation by a 100-year flood having additional hazards due to storm-induced velocity wave action. Base flood elevations derived from detailed hydraulic analysis are shown within these zones.

To obtain a copy of your elevation certificate, contact the City's Microfilm Division in the Construction Services Bureau. For more information about your flood zone or elevation certificate, call (954) 828-5203.

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